

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 424

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2004

Received

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and encouraging Americans to wear red poppies on Memorial Day.

Whereas the red poppy was the first living plant that sprouted in the battlefields devastated by fighting during World War I;

Whereas red poppies grew abundantly in the trenches and craters of the war-torn battlefields in Northern France and Belgium;

Whereas during World War I, the bloom of red poppies each year and the coming of the warm weather brought hope to those still fighting in the trenches of France and Belgium;

Whereas in 1915, the red poppy inspired Canadian Colonel John McCrae to write the poem “In Flanders Fields” in remembrance of the thousands of soldiers who perished during the three battles of Ypres in Belgium;

Whereas in 1918, John McCrae’s poem inspired Moina Belle Michael of Athens, Georgia, to write her own poem entitled “We Shall Keep the Faith”, in which she promised to wear a red poppy to memorialize American soldiers killed in World War I, and later to raise millions of dollars to support and employ disabled American veterans of all wars;

Whereas on November 11, 1921, the first Poppy Day was held in the United Kingdom and was a national success;

Whereas the red poppy is a symbol of sacrifice throughout the world;

Whereas the red poppy has been worn in the United States for more than 80 years as a way to remember those individuals who died fighting for freedom and democracy around the world and to raise money to help disabled veterans; and

Whereas in 2004, wearing a red poppy on Memorial Day is especially timely considering the sacrifices United States soldiers are making in Iraq and Afghanistan for freedom, democracy, and security: Now, therefore, be it

- 1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2   *concurring)*, That Congress honors past and current mem-

1 bers of the Armed Forces of the United States and their  
2 families by encouraging every American to wear a red  
3 poppy on Memorial Day as a sign of admiration and  
4 thanks to those individuals who died to preserve freedom  
5 and democracy in the United States.

Passed the House of Representatives May 19, 2004.

Attest: JEFF TRANDAHL,  
*Clerk.*